

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

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AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK, US

SUBJECT: BRIDGET BLOOM ARTICLE ON US-UK RHODESIAN

TALKS

FOLLOWING ARTICLE BY BRIDGET BLOOM APPEARED IN THE
AUGUST 6 EDITION OF THE FINANCIAL TIMES ENTITLED "UK
ADVISES CAUTION ON RHODESIA."

QUOTE: BRITAIN AND THE US DIFFER ON WHETHER THE TIME IS
RIPE FOR A NEW ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE ON RHODESIA,
ALTHOUGH THEY AGREE ON THE NEED TO ENCOURAGE A SPEEDY NE-
GOTIATED TRANSFER TO MAJORITY RULE IN THE TERRITORY.
THIS APPEARS TO BE THE MAIN CONCLUSION RESULTING FROM
TALKS BETWEEN MR. JAMES CALLAGHAN, PRIME MINISTER, AND
DR. HENRY KISSINGER, US SECRETARY OF STATE.

IT IS BELIEVED THAT DR. KISSINGER IS KEEN THAT SOME
NEW INITIATIVE BE MADE ON RHODESIA, BUT THAT MR.
CALLAGHAN HAS ADVISED CAUTION.

IT IS ALSO BELIEVED THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS
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WORRIED THAT ANY INITIATIVE PROPOSED BY DR. KISSINGER

COULD INVOLVE THE UK IN AN ENLARGED AND POLITICALLY UNWELCOME ROLE.

THE KISSINGER INITIATIVE WOULD TAKE AS ITS STARTING POINT THE STATEMENT MADE BY MR. CALLAGHAN ON MARCH 22. THE PRIME MINISTER THEN TOLD WHITE RHODESIA TIME WAS RUNNING OUT AND THE ONLY SOLUTION SANCTIONED BY BRITAIN WOULD BE A TRANSFER TO MAJORITY RULE IN 18 MONTHS TO TWO YEARS.

THIS POLICY IS FULLY ENDORSED IN WASHINGTON. BUT DR. KISSINGER HAS TOLD MR. CALLAGHAN HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE POLICY "FLESHED OUT," PARTICULARLY TO INCLUDE GUARANTEES FOR THE WHITE MINORITY WHEN BLACK RULE WAS ESTABLISHED.

DR. KISSINGER HAS SUGGESTED FINANCIAL GUARANTEES COVERING LAND PURCHASE, PROPERTY, PENSIONS AND THE ULTIMATE RIGHT OF SETTLEMENT FOR WHITES OUTSIDE RHODESIA. HE HAS SUGGESTED THESE COULD BE BACKED BY THE US TREASURY AS WELL AS BY BRITAIN AND POSSIBLY OTHER EUROPEAN AND COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENTS.

THE US REASONING SEEMS TO BE THAT WITH FIRM GUARANTEES THE RHODESIAN WHITES COULD BE BROUGHT SPEEDILY TO ACCEPT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT TO MAJORITY RULE.

BUT MR. CALLAGHAN AND HIS ADVISERS' WHILE AGREEING THAT SOME FORM OF GUARANTEES FOR WHITES WILL BE NECESSARY, DO NOT BELIEVE THE TIME IS RIPE FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A PACKAGE OF PROPOSALS.

THE BRITISH VIEW IS THAT WHITE RHODESIA HAS SHOWN NO SIGN OF ACCEPTING THE INEVITABILITY OF MAJORITY RULE AND THAT UNTIL THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT CRACK IN WHITE MORALE PUBLICATION OF GUARANTEE PROPOSALS COULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.

THERE ARE ALSO POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL WORRIES ON THE BRITISH SIDE. ANY GUARANTEES WOULD BE BOUND TO BE EXTREMELY COSTLY--FIGURES SUGGESTED VARY BETWEEN 100 MILLION POUNDS AND 500 MILLION POUNDS. THE VERY IDEA OF COMPENSATING WHITES BRINGS A HOSTILE REACTION FROM LABOUR'S LEFT WING.

THERE APPEARS TO BE MORE AGREEMENT ON NAMIBIA (SOUTH WEST AFRICA).

DR. KISSINGER IS BELIEVED TO BE WORKING TOWARDS A
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PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD INVOLVE THE ATTENDANCE OF THE MAIN NATIONALIST PARTY, SWAPO, AT AN ENLARGED CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE OUTSIDE NAMIBIA ITSELF. END QUOTE

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